The small sized fields would be developed by the companies on their own with no participation by ONGC/OIL under production sharing contracts with the Government of India. The companies would have to pay statutory levies like royalty and cess. Payment for the companies share of oil would be at international market price.

Privatisation of Oil Drilling Centres in Andhra Pradesh

8038. SHRI T. VENKATARAM REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to private some of the oil drilling centres under the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and Oil India Limited, in Andhra Pradesh; and,

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Under the Fourth Round a contract has been signed for exploration of oil and gas in block GN-ON-90|3 which falls partly in Andhra Pradesh and partly in Maharashtra. Again, under the Eighth Round, bids have been received for exploration of oil and gas in the block KG-ON|1 in A.P. Further, bids have also been received for development of following small sized fields in A.P. under the second offer for development of fields:—

Marepalli

Bandamurlanka North

Palakollu-Medapadu

Razole-Chintalapalli.

Supply of LPG Refill Cylinders in Modinagar and Govindpuri

8039. SHRI SHIVPRASAD CHAINPURIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the supply of LPG refill cylinders to the consumers by Indian Oil Corporation LPG distributors in Modi Nagar and Govindpuri is very unsatisfactory and irregular;

(b) whether complaints have been received against M|s. Kanishka Enterprises, Modi Nagar, District Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh from the LPG consumers of Modi Nagar; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken against the above IOC agency so as to ensure that regular supply of LPG refill cylinders is restored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir. However, during the last few months, there has been disruption of LPG refill supply in the markets in the area including Modinagar and Govindpuri.

(b) and (c) Some complaints have been received regarding delayed refill supplies. During the investigation of complaints, wherever the distributor has not been found prompt in sending refill supplies, warning letter has been issued as per revised Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

Platform Project of ONGC

8040. SHRI K. .R MALKANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has a platform porject, as reported in the 'Indian Express' dated the 11th May, 1995;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the lowest bidder for this contract is Mazagon Docks Limited (MDL);

(c) whether efforts are afoot to give the contract to NPCC of Abu Dhabi on the ground that MDL is not in a position to offer a financial package;

(d) whether Government would ensure that MDL is not starved of funds and not made to lose contracts; and

(e) whether the ONGC itself would finance the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The tender was discussed in the Steering Committee meeting of the ONGC. The Steering Committee decided to seek best reduced prices (inclusive of customs duty and excise duty) from all the technically acceptable bidders. ONGC would also inform the bidders that they are not looking for any financing package/ credit facility in this project.

Sitting up of two petroleum refineries in North India

8041. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up two grass-root petroleum refineries in North India;

(b) if so, what is the estimated cost of each refinery; and

(c) what is the capacity of production of each refinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Government has already approved the setting up of a 6 MMTPA capacity refinery at Panipat by Indian Oil Corporation Limited at an estimated cost of Rs. 3868 crores. There is also a proposal to set up a grass-root refinery in Uttar Pradesh. The details of the proposal are being worked out.

Purchase of Gas Stoves with New LPG Connections

8042. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory to produce a receipt of having bought a gas stove, to get a new gas connections;

(b) if so, whether this condition is clearly stated in the allotment letters issued for gas connections;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether some agencies, including M/s. Nihar Gas Service, Bharat Gas Distributors, 149, Pocket-D, Mayur Vihar, Phase-II, Delhi-91, are pressurising consumers by harassing them, to buy gas stoves from them at higher prices, than those prevailing in the open market; and

(e) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

(d) and (e) Sometimes such complaints are received. The customers are at liberty to purchase hot-plate from any source provided it bears the ISI mark. The distributors have standing instructions not to insist on purchase of hot-plate from them and are required to display a notice in their showrooms that it is not obligatory for a customer to purchase hot-plate from the distributors releasing the connection. The Marketing